

CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

Friday, February 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ellen Goethel, Chairperson. Present were Commissioners Jay Diener, Dr. Ralph Falk, Bonnie Thimble and Peter Tilton Jr. Absent were Daniel Gangai and Charlie Preston.

A special Public Hearing was held on Friday, February 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order to discuss the application that the Conservation Commission is making to the New Hampshire Coastal Program for a grant for \$50,000. Mrs. Goethel read into the Minutes the definition for the grant. "The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) annually offers federal matching funds for the purpose of undertaking projects that address coastal issues. Grants are offered on a competitive basis to eligible applicants. Matching grant funds are available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Hampton is eligible for Planning and Management and Acquisition and Construction.

The discussion is for the acquisition of the Lamprey Ice Pond located at Tax Map 95 Lot 2 and Tax Map 95 Lot 3. The application is for \$50,000. (\$150,000 in matching funds; asking another \$100,000 from Town Meeting; and hoping for other grants and gifts) The property is worth \$750,000 on the open market.

The two parcels have now been subdivided by the owner into 3 lots. They run along Woodland Rd. adjacent to Town owned land. The parcel includes half of Ice Pond. (The Town owns the other half of the pond) Another piece of narrow Town owned land that goes from the property to Twelve Shares wall and 2 pieces of Twelve Shares that are contiguous and across the street the Town owns a large piece of land attached to Great Meadow.

Mr. Diener thought this was very valuable to the Town because of its water shed and importance as a wild life habitat and its historical value to the Town. Ms Thimble agreed. Mr. Tilton stated it has educational values. Dr. Falk would like to see it go forward.

At this time Mrs. Goethel opened up the discussion to the Public. Ms. Carolyn Fetter of 206 Woodland Rd asked how many applicants were interested in this lot. Mr. Diener answered that he didn't have any numbers. Ms Kathy Walsh reviewed the map and asked if the grant process was a political one. Mrs. Goethel answered that this is an estuary project and has a point system. The cost figures come from the Town Assessor. The next step is to have the property appraised.

As there were no other questions from the Public, the Public Session was closed. Mrs. Goethel asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Thimble motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Dr. Falk. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Launi
Secretary